

IN THE CLAIMS

1. -20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently amended) A method of managing a virtual private network over an internet, the method comprising:

providing a graphical user interface configured to display a list of switches, and for one of the switches, a menu of links, each link for accessing, via the internet, a web-page generated by a web-server associated with the switch offering virtual private network functions, and wherein each of the links correspond to a uniform resource locator (URL), and the graphical user interface prepares each URL by prepending an IP address of the switch to a predefined web-page location.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein each of the links comprises an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) link.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of the links comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing users of the virtual private network functions provided by the switch.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of the links comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing packet filters provided by the switch.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of the links comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing access hours of the switch.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

transmitting an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) request when a link is selected by a user; and

accessing a web-page associated with the selected link in response to the HTTP request, the web-page comprising configuration information related to the switch.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 comprising: modifying the configuration information of the switch via the accessed web-page.

28. Cancelled

29. Cancelled

30. (Currently amended) A system for managing a virtual private network, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium electronically coupled to the processor;

a plurality of instructions wherein at least a portion of said plurality of instructions are storable in the computer readable medium, and further wherein the plurality of instructions are configured to cause the processor to perform the step of:

providing a graphical user interface configured to display a list of switches, and for one of the switches, a menu of links, each link for accessing, via the internet a web-page generated by a web-server associated with a the switch offering virtual private network functions, and wherein each of the links correspond to a uniform resource locator (URL), and the graphical user interface prepares each URL by prepending an IP address of the switch to a predefined web-page location.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein each link comprises an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) link.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein at least one of the links comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing users of the virtual private network functions provided by the switch.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein at least one of the links comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing packet filters provided by the switch.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein at least one of the links comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing access hours of the switch.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, further comprising:
instructions for transmitting an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) request when a link is selected by a user; and instructions for accessing a web-page associated with the selected link in response to the HTTP request, the web-page comprising configuration information related to the switch.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35 further comprising:
instructions for allowing modification of the configuration information of the switch via the accessed web-page and for transmitting modified configuration information to the switch.

37. Cancelled

38. Cancelled

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
transmitting an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) request when the link is selected by a user;

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accessing a web-page associated with the selected link in response to the HTTP request, the web-page comprising configuration information related to the switch, the configuration information including information describing users of the virtual private network functions provided by the switch; and

modifying at least a portion of the configuration information of the switch via the accessed web-page.